

FREDERICK COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Public Safety Training Center

5370 Public Safety Place

Frederick, MD 21704

MINUTES of June 27, 2017 Meeting

I. The meeting was called to order.

II. The following members were present: Mari Lee, Tonya Amedon, Lisa Clark, Francisco Alves, Annette Breiling, Adam Book, David Kaye, Marguerite Vacca-Kaye, Lee Whisner, Irene Packer-Halsey, Roger Sobkowiak and Kavonte' Duckett. Liaison member Jet Reid was present.

III. Other persons present were FPD Chief Hargis, Capt. Patrick Grossman, Capt. Dwight Sommers, Ben McShane, Angela Spencer, Julia Becker and Lacey Walker.

IV. An invitation was extended to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

V. The May 2017 HRC meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by vote without corrections.

VI. Julia Becker and Lacey Walker described some of the projects that Safe Haven Frederick is currently working on, and circulated a draft of pledge of non-discrimination and inclusion that they want to finalize and take to restaurants and other businesses in Frederick. The owners of the businesses would agree to address any bias or discrimination they observe. Safe Haven Frederick would offer to provide free bias training, and would follow up if businesses didn't comply with their pledge. The pledge would eventually be translated into different languages, and would be posted on the employee bulletin board as well as in other locations in each business.

VII. Ben McShane spoke on behalf of Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ), a national organization that seeks to mobilize white people to help undermine racism and white supremacy. He has started a local chapter that is working as part of a multi-racial network to help solve problems. The local chapter was very involved in the recent rally to support Muslims in Frederick. He said that the group's approach is to "call people in" to work for racial justice in their own lives and neighborhoods, rather than "calling people out."

VIII. Chief Hargis reported that FPD will host a Kid's Academy, for seventy kids over a period of three days. He said that FPD officers would be present at the upcoming Carver Block Party and Asbury Block Party on June 24. He said that FPD officers will be interacting with kids at Hillcrest, Lincoln, and Carver. The officers will coach teams and eventually the teams will compete.

Chief Hargis said that he has met with representatives from Safe Haven Frederick to discuss the department's use of force and de-escalation techniques. He said that the FPD marketing committee is creating recruitment posters. The department is trying many different approaches to recruiting minority police officer applicants, and is talking with people off-duty and on-duty, and at churches and schools. Advertising spots are running on the city's cable channel, and FPD officers have been recruiting in the area around Hampton Roads, Virginia where there is a strong military presence, in order to attract more racially diverse applicants.

IX. Mari Lee reported that the Executive Committee voted to recommend that the HRC request County Executive Jan Gardner to appoint Michal Baran to the HRC. Kavonte' Duckett moved to do so, and Lisa Clark seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

On the election of HRC officers for FY18, Mari Lee reminded the membership of the slate of officers that was recommended by the nominating committee at the May HRC meeting. She asked if any member wished to make additional nominations for any office, and there was no response. Tonya Amedon moved that the persons nominated for each position be elected, and Marguerite Vacca-Kaye seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote, to elect the following persons to the office stated:

Mari Lee	Chair
Lisa Clark	Vice-Chair
Annette Breiling	Treasurer
David Kaye	Parliamentarian
Lee Whisner	Member at Large

X. Treasurer Lisa Clark reported that the HRC has \$923.07 in funds on hand.

XI. Mari Lee said that she will review the composition of the three standing committees, and will make appointments after July 1.

Mari Lee said that the Special Committee on Data Collection will meet soon to discuss the data that has been collected, and what recommendations should be made to the County Council. This special committee will discuss its progress with the Executive Committee in July.

Mari Lee reported that a number of members performed volunteer work at Frederick Pride on June 24 as the HRC's day of service activity for this quarter. David Kaye, Marguerite Vacca-Kaye, Irene Packer-Halsey, Annette Breiling, Adam Book and Francisco Alves all worked at the event, as did Miles Ward from the HRD.

XII. Miles Ward distributed materials on the increasing problem of hate in America. Threats and attacks are happening every week, and people are being targeted on the basis of their race, gender, national origin, religion, sexual orientation and political affiliation. He reminded HRC members that their work is very important to promoting understanding, acceptance and good will here in our community.

XIII. Mari Lee noted that National Night Out will take place on Tuesday, August 1, at several different locations. This year HRC members will be encouraged to attend and talk with people about what the HRC is and what it does. Tables will not be used, but members will be given bags of give-away items to distribute.

The City will host a proclamation for Human Rights Day at City Hall on July 6 at 7 pm.

Outgoing HRC Vice-Chair was presented a framed certificate recognizing her years of service and great contributions. She thanked the members and spoke about how much her service on the HRC had meant to her.

XIV. Those attending who chose to do so made brief final comments.

XV. The meeting was adjourned.